

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION Washington, DC 20463

DFC 2 1 2001

<u>VIA CERTIFIED MAIL</u> RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Vickie L. Winpisinger, Treasurer Ruben Hinojosa for Congress 4415 N. McColl Rd. McAllen, TX 78504

RE: MUR 4901

Dear Ms. Winpisinger:

In the ordinary course of exercising its supervisory responsibilities, the Commission found reason to believe that one employee of Rust Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc. was reimbursed funds that he contributed to federal committees in violation of 2 U.S.C. §§ 441b and 441f. The Commission approved conciliation agreements with the corporation and the employee in settlement of the matter on September 7, 2001, and November 20, 2001, respectively. On September 26, 1996, James E. Gonzales made a \$250 contribution to the Ruben Hinojosa for Congress committee. Rust Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc. has acknowledged that this contribution is a reimbursed contribution.

Federal law prohibits making corporate contributions in connection with federal elections, or the knowing acceptance of such contributions. 2 U.S.C. § 441b(a). Further, 2 U.S.C. § 441f prohibits making any contributions in the name of another, or the knowing acceptance of such contributions. In light of the impermissible nature of the above-referenced contributions, the Commission instructs you to disgorge an equivalent amount to the United States Treasury, care of the Federal Election Commission, within 30 days of your receipt of this letter. The Commission is providing this notice for your information, and does not consider you a respondent in this matter.

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If you have any questions, please contact Margaret J. Toalson, the attorney assigned to this matter, at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,

Lawrence H. Norton General Counsel

BY:

Rhonda J. Vosdingh

Acting Associate General Counsel

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